Strikes and lockout in West Bengal

1358. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal have emerged on top of instances of strikes and lockout in 1999 followed by Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat and the country as a whole has lost in industrial production of Rs. 823 crores increasing one-third of the last year;

(b) whether the production loss has been to the tune of Rs. 694 crore in the year 1998; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps Government are taking to create positive work culture and above all accountability and commitment to productivity, quality and cost effectiveness so that India could compete in the global market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) According to provisional information for 1999, Tamil Nadu had the maximum number of strikes and lockouts followed by West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. The resulting production loss for the country as a whole was Rs. 632 crores during 1999 compared to Rs. 694 crores during 1998.

(c) With a view to creating a positive work environment leading to increase in productivity and international competitiveness, the Government has been emphasizing closer partnership between workers and management, importance of workers' education and development of their skills and greater role of conciliation in effective settlement of disputes/differences.

Women workers in Tea industry

†1359. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the living standard of women workers in tea industry is very miserable;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any effective steps for improving the standard of living of the women working in tea gardens; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi